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FORM
of
ADMISSION
of
AN ACOLYTE



of the
ORDER OF SAINT VINCENT

PRAYER OF THE ORDER

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast called *us* Thy servants to the Sacred office of Acolyte in Thy Church, that clothed in white *we* may minister before Thee, *we* pray Thee of Thy great mercy to guide, strengthen, and sanctify *us* by Thy Holy Spirit, that, always doing Thy will, *we* may both by *our* service in Thy House and by *our* daily life please Thee and glorify Thy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*



VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above,
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
The dulness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

FORM OF ADMISSION

VENI CREATOR

¶ *Then shall the Candidate, vested in a cassock, be brought forward by the Warden, who shall say:*

Reverend Father, I present unto thee this person to be admitted an Acolyte and member of the Order of St. Vincent.

Priest. My Son, what is thy desire?

Answer. I desire to be admitted an Acolyte and to be received in the Order of St. Vincent, that I may share in the devotions and good works of its members.

Priest. Wilt thou endeavor faithfully to fulfill thy duties as an Acolyte?

Answer. I will endeavor so to do.

Priest. Dost thou promise to conform to the rules of the Order so long as thou shalt continue a member of it?

Answer. I do.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR FATHER

V. O Lord, save Thy servant.

R. Who putteth his trust in Thee.

V. Send him help from Thy Holy Place.

R. And evermore mightily defend him.

V. Let the enemy have no advantage over him.

R. Nor the wicked approach to hurt him.

V. Lord hear our prayer.

R. And let our cry come unto Thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY

GIVE ear, O Lord, to our prayers and vouchsafe to bless this Thy servant, whom we are about to receive in Thy Holy Name to a share in all spiritual blessings and to the companionship of the Order of Saint Vincent, and grant that by Thy grace he may lead a godly life in Thy Church, advancing in holiness, and, assisted by the prayers of this Order, may obtain everlasting life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ Then, turning to the Candidate, he shall say:

I admit thee to be an Acolyte in this Parish of _____ in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ Then, putting the surplice on him, he shall add:

I clothe thee in the white garment of the surplice; see that thou serve God with such reverence and devotion that thou mayest hereafter be admitted into the ranks of those who, having washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, stand before the Throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His Temple.

¶ Then, turning to the Altar, on which the medal of the Order is laid, he shall say:

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY

O God, Creator, Preserver, Saviour of mankind, Bestower of Salvation and Giver of spiritual grace, send down Thy blessing upon this medal, that whoso wears it, fortified with heavenly might may preserve un-

blemished faith, steadfast hope and fervent charity, and never be parted from Thee, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

¶ *Then, turning to the Candidate, he shall say:*

I receive and admit thee into the fellowship of the Order of Saint Vincent, and to a share in all its privileges and duties, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Receive this medal in token of thy membership in the Order of Saint Vincent, making thy prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ, that by His merits thou mayest bear it without reproach, and may He guard thee from all adversity and bring thee to everlasting life. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the priest sign him with the sign of the Cross, saying:*

Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, Who hath vouchsafed to lead thee into this company and fellowship, bless ☩ and strengthen thee, that thou mayest tread under foot the head of the serpent, thine enemy, and at length victoriously attain the palm and crown of thine everlasting inheritance, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ant.: I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

PSALM XLIII

Judica Me

GIVE sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people: O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.

For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou put me from thee: and why go I so heavily while the enemy oppresseth me?

O send out thy light and thy truth that they may lead me: and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.

And that I may go unto the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness: and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou so heavy O my soul: and why art thou so disquieted within me?

Why art thou so heavy, O my soul: and give him thanks which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Ant.: I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.